

THE TELLTALE HEAD

ACT 1

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FOYER - SUNDAY MORNING

MARGE emerges from kitchen wearing a large hat with a very long veil.

MARGE

Kids, we're late for church. Get your
butts down here right now.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - TOP OF STAIRS

The kids emerge. MAGGIE wears a bonnet in a somber color, LISA is wearing a Sunday dress and BART wears a blazer with his hair slicked down. Lisa and Maggie scamper down the stairs followed by Bart who slides down the bannister and lands on his ass with a GRUNT.

LISA

Ready for inspection, Mom.

Marge adjusts Maggie's bonnet.

MARGE

Very nice, Maggie. And Lisa you
look lovely. (LESS FRIENDLY)

Bart, assume the position.

Bart turns and places his hands on the wall. Marge frisks him removing a slingshot, a comic book and dice.

MARGE

(ANNOYED MURMURS) Oh, Bart. Now
where's your father?

FLASH PAN TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

HOMER, wearing a suit and tie, is standing on the couch,
jumping up and down.

HOMER

Get him! Get him! Get him!

TV ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Phillips has broken free. He's at the
45, 50, the 40, 30, 20, 10.

HOMER

(BEAT) Oh no.

TV ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Touchdown.

HOMER

No!

ANNOUNCER

A 64 yard run. We have got an upset in
the making!

HOMER

No we don't. Try being objective for
once in your... Oooh!

Marge enters and sees Homer on the couch.

MARGE

Let's go, Homer.

HOMER

But you don't understand, Marge. I have fifty bucks riding on this game.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Don't forget, big double header action Sunday, beginning at 12:30 eastern. Spend the whole day with us.

MARGE

But Homer, you promised me...

HOMER

This isn't gambling, Marge. It's a sure thing.

TV ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Now here's the kick-off. Wolodarsky has it on his own 5 and -- Oh my! He fumbles.

HOMER

Oh no!

TV ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

It's recovered in the end zone.

Another touchdown!

HOMER

(ANGUISHED GRUNT) No!

TV ANNAOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

This is going to send the whole standings topsy turvy.

PAN with Homer as Marge drags him through the hallway to the kids, out the front door and into the car.

INT. CAR - MORNING

MARGE

Homer, why should I feel like a traffic cop every Sunday morning when I'm just trying to get a little goodness into the family.

Homer turns on the radio and is BLASTED by HEAVY METAL MUSIC. Bart is bopping to an unheard rhythm.

HOMER

(IRRITATED GRUNT) Where is it. The game... where is it?

While pushing the pre-set radio stations, Homer puts the car in reverse and recklessly backs into the street.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

We HEAR a radio going back and forth between CHURCH MUSIC and FIERY SERMONS as the car meanders nearly out of control.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Homer finally finds the game on the radio.

HOMER

Ah!

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

All right Kogen's got Wolodarsky open in the end zone. He throws it.

HOMER

Catch it! catch it!

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

It's complete. Touchdown!

HOMER

All right!

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Oh Doctor, we got a barn burner here.

Homer **HONKS** his horn and **FLASHES** his lights. Marge lets out an annoyed murmur.

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

This could be the most remarkable
comeback since Lazarus rose from the
dead.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - A LITTLE LATER

There's a sign reading " Reverend Lovejoy presiding.
Pagans welcome."

The Simpsons' car is parked in front of church. Homer is in the front seat listening to the game. Marge is getting the kids out of car.

Lisa, Maggie and Bart follow Marge towards the church. Bart is still bopping to unheard music.

MARGE

C'mon everybody, we're late. Bart, I
want you to promise me you'll pay
attention in Sunday school. Bart?
Bart? (LOUDLY) BART!! (VERY LOUDLY)

BART

Are you talking to me?

MARGE

(GASPS) What's this? A personal
stereo? Were you going to listen to
rock music in Sunday school?

BART

Maybe.

She yanks the headphones off his head. Bart's ears wiggle and we HEAR TINNY ROCK 'N ROLL MUSIC.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Can you believe this, Homer?...

Homer?...Homer?

Marge turns.

MARGE'S POV

Homer is still in the car listening to the game. He is pounding his head on the steering wheel. Marge goes back to the car in a huff and opens the door dropping the headphones on the front seat.

HOMER

Oh no, no. We stink, we stink!

MARGE

Homer! Were you planning on sitting in the car till the game was over?

HOMER

Maybe.

MARGE

It's because of your irreverent attitude that Bart thinks he can sneak headphones into Sunday school.

HOMER'S POV

Homer's eyes widen as he sees the headphones on the front seat looking very tempting.

MARGE

Now, move it!

Marge doesn't notice as Homer grabs the headphones as they start towards the church.

INT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Lisa and Bart's room. Bart is sitting next to MILHOUSE.

JANIE

Will my dog, Pepper, be there?

TEACHER

I'm sorry but the answer is no.

JANIE

(SADLY) Why not?

TEACHER

Because heaven is for people.

LISA

What about my cat, Snowball?

TEACHER

I'm sorry but the answer is no.

MILHOUSE

Will there be cavemen in heaven?

TEACHER

Certainly not. Well, they were practically animals.

BART

Uh mam, what if you're a really good person but you're in a really, really really bad fight and your leg gets gangrene and it has to be amputated; will it be waiting for you in heaven?

TEACHER

For the last time, yes!

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Marge, holding Maggie, and Homer sit in a pew. Homer has a beatific smile on his face.

REVEREND LOVEJOY

And now I'd like to begin today's sermon which I have entitled, "Gambling, the 8th Deadly Sin." Today is Sunday, the Lord's day and yet, at this very moment, millions of Americans are not in the Lord's house. They're in their own house worshipping a false idol, professional football. Oh Lord...

BEHIND HOMER'S HEAD

We no longer hear the Reverend. Instead we HEAR the FOOTBALL GAME Homer is listening to on the headphones. Remarkably, the Reverend's gestures coincide with the announcer's remarks.

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

It's a beautiful Sunday. Perfect football weather for this incredible game. And by the way, this game is brought to you by the good people at Duff Beer. You can't get enough of that wonderful Duff.

Reverend Lovejoy gestures sternly.

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (O.S.)

Now, they're lining up for this crucial kick. One final tick of the clock remains. If they win, it will cap an amazing comeback. It's a 49 yard field goal into the wind.

Reverend folds his hands and leads the congregation in prayer. Homer folds his hands and prays fervently for the field goal.

HOMER

Make it, make it, make it, make it.

RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

The kick is up it's got the distance.
Holy toledo, it's good!

HOMER

Please, please, please, please, please.

We HEAR fans EXULTING in b.g.

BACK TO WIDE SHOT

The Reverend gestures with both his hands raised above his head.

HOMER

(SHRIEKING EXULTATION) (LEAPING TO HIS FEET AND SHOOTING BOTH FISTS OVER HIS HEAD) It's good! It's good! It's good!

The Reverend stops speaking and all look at Homer.

HOMER

It's good to see you all in church.

REVEREND LOVEJOY

Please be seated, Homer.

MARGE

(LOUD & SHARPLY) Yeah. Sit down,
Homer.

INT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Bart has his hand raised.

TEACHER

(EXASPERATED) The ventriloquist goes to
heaven, but the dummy doesn't.

BART

Oh, oh, oh, me.

TEACHER

Bart.

BART

What about a robot with a human brain?

TEACHER

I don't know. All these questions...
Is a little blind faith too much to
ask?

Church BELLS begin to CHIME. Kids CHEER and race out.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

(CALLING AFTER THEM) Don't forget next
week... remember to read... (SIGHS)

INT. CHURCH - ENTRANCEWAY DAY

There is a sign reading, "Bingo, Tuesday Night. Wednesday, Monte Carlo Night. Reno Retreat, Saturday." The Simpsons are exiting the church. All the churchgoers shake Reverend Lovejoy's hand. AD LIB: "Lovely sermon, Reverend." "I was deeply moved." "See you next Sunday." Etc. Homer walks up.

CHURCHGOING WOMAN

That was very nice father.

REVEREND

I stayed up all night writing it. I seem to have struck a chord with you today, Homer.

HOMER

What? Oh yeah. You were great.

MARGE

(EXASPERATED NOISE)

She pulls Homer away and the family walk towards the car.

MARGE

Homer, you embarrassed us in front of the whole congregation, and today's sermon was one you should have really listened to.

HOMER

What was it about?

MARGE

Gambling.

HOMER

Oh! He didn't by any chance say that
under certain circumstances it was
alright, did he?

The family gets into their car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

MARGE

No! Look, I don't want to talk about
this any more in front of the kids.
Lisa, Bart, what did you two learn in
Sunday school today?

LISA

The answers to deep theological
questions.

BART

Yeah. Among other things, apes can't
get into heaven.

HOMER

What! Those cute little monkeys?
That's terrible. Who told you that?

BART

Our teacher.

HOMER

I can understand how they wouldn't let
in those wild jungle apes, but what
about those really smart ones who live
among us who roller skate and smoke
cigars?

Bart is looking out the window and sees on a movie marquee
SPACE MUTANTS 4: THE TRILOGY CONTINUES.

BART

Ah, cool, man. Space Mutants 4. Drop
me off! Drop me off!

MARGE

No way, Jose.

HOMER

Marge. They're only space mutants.

MARGE

I know what those movies are like.
Killing innocent people, eating human
flesh. (TO BART) You just get a lot of
bad ideas.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Homer lies on couch in his suit. Bart enters.

BART

Hey, Dad. Can I have five bucks?

HOMER

(WINKS) I hope you're not planning to see a certain movie starring certain space mutants that a certain mother didn't want you to see?

(CHUCKLES)

BART

(CHUCKLES) Perish the thought.

HOMER

Here you go, son. Share the wealth, that's what I always say.

HOMER

(SHARPLY) Beat it, boy.

Bart takes his money and walks upstairs. As he goes towards his room, he sheds parts of his clothing. He is naked for a beat then he puts on his regular clothes as he continues walking.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DAY

Bart comes out of bedroom window carrying skateboard. He grabs some rope and swings a la Tarzan to the ground which sends him zipping down the sidewalk. Bart does a series of stunning acrobatic skateboard tricks, including jumping garbage cans, rail-sliding, wallees, etc.

BART

Da da da da da da de de de Whoa! Ugh,
Cowabunga!

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

In front of theatre are TWO HEAVY METAL KIDS (KEARNY and JIMBO).

JIMBO

Hey, hot dog!

BART

What?

Bart turns his head and crashes into wall with a GRUNT.

JIMBO

Nice dismount, man.

Kids LAUGH SNEERINGLY.

BART

It didn't hurt.

KEARNY

Oh yeah? Well, do it again.

BART

Nah. I might land on my face and end up looking like you.

Jimbo LAUGHS.

KEARNY

You little punk.

Kearny starts menacingly towards Bart. Jimbo stops him.

JIMBO

Hey man, leave the kid alone. I like him.

BART

You do?

JIMBO

Yeah! You're witty. So what's your name, man?

BART

I'm Bart Simpson.

JIMBO

This here's Kearny and I'm Jimbo.

BART

(IMPRESSED)

Wow man, you don't need an
introduction. You're the worst kid in
school.

JIMBO

Thanks.

BART

I'd like to hang with you, but I'm late
for the movie.

KEARNY

Well, stick around. We'll get you in
at a discount.

DOLPH peeks out the side exit of the theatre.

DOLPH

Psst. Coast is clear.

BART

(SHOCKED) You guys are sneaking in?

KEARNY

Yeah. Only saps pay to see movies.

JIMBO

Hey Bart, come on.

BART

But sneaking into a movie is
practically stealing.

DOLPH

Practically?

JIMBO

It is stealing.

BART

Well, okay. I just wanted to make sure
we weren't deluding ourselves.

Jimbo grabs Bart and yanks him inside. The theatre door
closes behind them.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. THEATRE - DAY

The movie has begun. On screen, two teenagers are making out in a car. Bart, Jimbo, Kearny and Dolph are sitting together.

GIRL ON SCREEN

Wait, I think I hear something.

BOY ON SCREEN

Come on, loosen up, baby. There's nobody here but you and me.

GIRL ON SCREEN

No. Stop it, I think I hear something... not human.

Bart makes a rude NOISE by pressing his palms against his face and blowing. The kids ROAR.

BOY ON SCREEN

Don't tell me you believe those crazy rumors about flesh-eating space mutants. Come on, Baby, let's get romantic.

GIRL ON SCREEN

Well, okay.

The teenagers on screen begin to kiss.

BART

(YELLS, SING-SONG) You'll be sorry.

JIMBO

(LAUGHS) This kid's a riot.

On screen a giant hideous **SPACE MUTANT** comes up from the back seat of the car.

GIRL ON SCREEN

(SCREAMS)

Tentacles wrap around both teenagers' necks, asphyxiating them gruesomely. Teenagers on screen **SCREAM** and make **HORRIBLE CHOKING NOISES**. Bart and Kids **LAUGH** and **CHEER**. Suddenly from behind them a large **USHER** appears like the Space Mutant did, grabbing Bart and Jimbo, who **SCREAM**.

USHER

You little sneaks. You're coming with me.

EXT. THEATRE

The kids come flying and stumbling out the front door.

USHER

Next time you little hoodlums try this, I'm calling your parents.

KEARNY

Oh yeah? Well, we don't want to see your crummy movie, anyway.

DOLPH

Yeah! We'll take our business
elsewhere.

They start to leave.

JIMBO

You know, Bart, I've been kicked out of
all four space mutants movies.

BART

Wow, man!

INT. QUICK-E-MART

Bart is ordering Squishees. Kearny, Jimbo and Dolph
position themselves behind Bart in various parts of the
Quick-E-Mart.

BART

(TO CLERK) Three jumbo cherry
Squishees and one double jumbo
original flavor.

CLERK

Okay. (TO KIDS) Now, don't you kids
take anything. I'm watching you. I've
got eyes in the back of my head.

He turns to get the Squishees. While his back is turned,
the kids (except Bart) are stuffing their pockets with
things. Occasionally he turns back to check them. They
stop immediately. He brings the Squishees to Bart.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Four fifty two.

BART

(CALLING TO GUYS) Don't worry, guys.

It's on me. Share the wealth, that's

what I always say. (CHUCKLE)

Kearny, Jimbo and Dolph file past him.

BART (CONT'D)

Guys? Guys!

Bart grabs all four Squishees (in souvenir Space Mutant cups) and exits.

EXT. STREET

Jimbo, Kearny, Dolph and Bart walk along eating cinnamon candy, looking at "PLAYDUDE" magazine, and eating beef jerky.

BART

Hey, guys, where'd you get all that great stuff?

DOLPH

Five finger discount, man.

BART

Ripped it off?

JIMBO

Yeah! Thanks for covering for us, man.

On the way to the park, the kids pass the eight foot statue of Jebediah Springfield, the city's founder, standing victoriously with his foot on a dead bear's head. The three punks toss rocks at it, hitting a different spot with a different resounding CLANG.

JIMBO

Ugh! Go on, Bart.

BART

But that guy founded Springfield. He built our first hospital out of logs and mud. If it weren't for him all the settlers would have died in the great blizzard of forty eight.

JIMBO/DOLPH/KEARNY

So...?

BART

(HESITANTLY) So...watch me hit him right between the eyes.

He heaves a rock which strikes the statue right in the forehead.

BILL DANDY steps out of his store ("Candy Most Dandy").

MR. DANDY

Hey. What are you doing there? Show a little respect, you insolent little thugs.

DOLPH

Oooh.

KEARNY

The candyman.

JIMBO

We're really scared.

They walk off LAUGHING.

MR. DANDY

Hey, you! Hey! Hey you! Hey! Hey!

EXT. PARK - DAY

The kids are lying in the grass, **SLURPING** on their drinks, eating their stuff, looking at the clouds.

KEARNY

You know, when you look up at clouds in the sky they start looking like stuff.

DOLPH

No, they don't.

KEARNY

Yeah, they do. Like that one over there looks just like a cherry bomb.

DOLPH

Hey, you're right. And look at that one. It looks like a guy with a switchblade stuck in his back.

JIMBO

Yeah! That one looks like a school bus going over a cliff in flames with kids inside screaming.

(NOTE: The clouds greatly resemble the objects described.)

BART

That one looks like the statue of our town founder, Jebediah Springfield.

DOLPH

Does not.

BART

Does too. I mean without the head, of course.

DOLPH

Oh, yeah.

JIMBO

I wish someone really would cut his
ugly old head off.

BART

You do?

KEARNY

Yeah. That'd be cool.

DOLPH

Sure would cheese everybody off.

BART

But guys, come on. Don't you remember
history class? Jebediah once killed a
bear with his bare hands.

DOLPH

(SARCASTIC) Oh. Sorry.

KEARNY

We forgot how much you love Jebediah
Springfield.

JIMBO

Yeah. He's your boyfriend.

BART

He is not!

Dolph and Kearny make KISSING SOUNDS at Bart.

JIMBO

Beat it, Simpson. I thought you were cool.

Bart sadly trudges back to the house.

INT. SIMPSON'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Homer is looking through a bowling ball catalog, entitled "THE BOWL EARTH CATALOG". He's licking his chops. Maggie sits in her highchair SUCKING and watching him.

HOMER

(TO MAGGIE) Wow! Look at all these bowling balls, Maggie. Can you think of a better way for Daddy to spend fifty bucks?

MAGGIE

(SUCKS)

He turns another page and GASPS.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Now I've seen everything. Black marblized with a liquid center. The "Stealth Bowler" -- the pins don't know what hit 'em.

Bart enters through front door.

BART

Dad, can I talk to you about something?

HOMER

Sure, boy. What's on your mind?

BART

Well... I was wondering... how
important is it to be popular?

HOMER

I'm glad you asked, son. Being popular
is the most important thing in the
world.

BART

So like sometimes you could do stuff
that you think is pretty bad so other
kids will like you better?

HOMER

(KIDDING) You're not talking about
killing anyone, are you?

BART

No.

HOMER

Are you?

BART

No.

HOMER

(TOUSLING BART'S HAIR) Then run along
you little scamp. A boy without
mischief is like a bowling ball without
a liquid center.

INT. BART'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-style music PLAYS over entire scene. Bart gets out from under the covers dressed like a Ninja warrior. He sneaks out of his room and peeks into his parents' bedroom. They are asleep -- Homer has fallen asleep with the bowling catalog over his face. Bart sneaks downstairs into the basement. He grabs a hacksaw from his father's workbench. He holds the saw up and we see it GLINT. Bart sneaks out of the house stepping on the cat's tail as he passes. As the cat YOWLS, Bart clamps his hand over its mouth and shushes it. The cat runs away.

EXT. VARIOUS STREET LOCATIONS - NIGHT

Bart sneaks along in his Ninja outfit. He passes through the deserted town. Past the Quick-E-Mart and Candy Most Dandy. He steps into a large menacing shadow. We PULL BACK to REVEAL he is in the shadow of Jebediah Springfield.

BART'S POV

We see the statue in forced perspective. We ZOOM onto its head.

BART

He gets a determined expression, climbs up the statue and starts to saw its neck. SFX SAWING.

WIDER SHOT OF SQUARE

Bart continues to saw.

LONG SHOT OF SPRINGFIELD. We HEAR some faint SAWING NOISES and then the resonating CLANG of the unseen head hitting the ground and rolling. Immediately dogs start BARKING, lights all over town go on and townspeople are heard AD LIBBING "What was that?", "Did you hear that?", "I think I heard something", etc. After a beat, the townspeople AD LIB "It was nothing", "You must have been dreaming", "Go back to sleep." "I told you it's cats, Maude; it's cats." All lights go off in town.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BART'S BEDROOM - MORNING

We are CLOSE UP on Bart who is sleeping. Some morning light crosses his face. He awakens. He woozily turns and SCREAMS as he reacts to something O.S. We PULL BACK revealing that Jebediah Springfield's head is on the pillow next to him.

MARGE (O.S.)

Bart, are you all right?

BART

Oh yeah. Top of the world, Ma.

MARGE (O.S.)

Well then come down for breakfast.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The radio is PLAYING Mambo music. Homer is eating a sausage with his fingers, dipping it in egg yolk and then dropping it down his gullet. He is still reading his bowling catalog.

HOMER

Oooh. Look at this one. "The Hammer of Thor. It will send your pins to (WITH DIFFICULTY) Valhalla." Lisa?

LISA

Valhalla is where Vikings go when they die.

HOMER

Ooooh, that's some ball.

Bart enters and puts down his knapsack with a resounding THUD. It is obvious to us that the head of the statue is inside.

BART

(EXTRA CHEERY) G-o-o-o-d morning,
everybody.

RADIO ANNOUNCER #3 (V.O.)

We interrupt Mambo in the Morning to
bring you this special news bulletin.
The statue of Jebediah Springfield, our
illustrious town founder, was brutally
decapitated last night in an act of
senseless vandalism. We now go to
Police Chief Wiggum at City Hall.

On the radio there is an angry DIN in the b.g.

POLICE CHIEF WIGGUM (V.O.)

Well, we have no witnesses, no suspects
and no leads. If anyone has any
information, please dial "oh" and ask
for the police. That number again,
"oh."

RADIO ANNOUNCER #3 (V.O.)

Stay tuned to this station for further
developments as they break.

Upbeat MAMBO MUSIC continues. Over the preceding
announcement the Simpsons all look horrified except for
Bart, who looks a little taken aback.

HOMER

This is horrible.

MARGE

What's this world coming to?

BART

Ah, come on man, it's just a statue.

MARGE

It's a statue of the trailblazing
founder of our town

LISA

It's a symbol of what we can all do if
we put our minds to it.

HOMER

Just a statue? Is the Statue of
Liberty just a statue? Is the Leaning
Tower of Piza just a statue?

HONKING outside.

BART

Uh-oh. School bus.

Lisa sits stunned at the table.

BART (CONT'D)

C'mon Lis. School bus.

Bart grabs his heavy knapsack and exits.

MARGE

Go on, Lisa. We've all got to be brave
just like Jebediah when he killed that
bear.

Lisa sadly gets up and follows Bart out the door. Marge
steps over to Homer and puts her arm around him to comfort
him.

MARGE

There, there, dear.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Bart and Lisa get on the bus. OTTO is leaning over the wheel misty-eyed. The other KIDS on the bus AD LIB: "What's the matter, Otto", "Otto, are you okay?", etc. Otto removes his headphones.

BART

Hey Otto. What's wrong?

OTTO

Some dude sawed off Jebediah
Springfield's head. School's been
cancelled. Go back to your homes.
(SOBS)

The kids file off the back of the bus.

LISA

There, there, Otto.

BART

I didn't know you felt that way, man..

OTTO

(TO HIMSELF) I'll just have to remember
him the way he was. (CRYING)

Otto pulls up his shirt to reveal a tattoo of Jebediah Springfield's statue on his stomach.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - LATER

MOE

Okay, come on, come on everybody. We
have to get on with our lives. Let's
try and put this tragedy behind us.

BARNEY

You're right, Moe. A beer, please, and
make sure there's a head on it.

MOE

Ohhhh. (BEGINS SOBBING)

BARNEY

(REALIZING) I didn't mean it. Me and
my big mouth.

EXT. OLD FOLK'S HOME - DAY

The flag is at half mast. A dozen OLD MEN sit on the porch
shaking their heads and muttering to themselves. AD LIB:
"It's a crime", "What's this world coming to", etc.

GRANDPA

I've said it before and I'll say it
again: Hell in a handbasket. I hope
they find the punk who did this and I
hope they cut his head off.

All the old men AD LIB agreement.

INT. CANDY MOST DANDY - DAY

Mr. Dandy is mindlessly eating candy to cheer himself up.
There is a big pile of candy boxes behind him. He is
watching a small portable television. We see an image of
the headless statue. A CROWD of hundreds stands vigil
outside at the statue.

TV ANNOUNCER #2

The people of Springfield are stunned.
They are staggering through the streets
as if they lost their own heads.

We PULL BACK REVEALING that although Mr. Dandy is watching
the scene on television, the actual scene is visible in the
big picture window behind him.

During the above, Bart has crossed through the square outside carrying his knapsack. He looks around nervously at the pain he has wrought.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jimbo, Dolph and Kearny are lying on the grass next to a "KEEP OFF THE GRASS" sign.

JIMBO

Boy, I'd sure love to meet the guy that cut off the head of that statue.

DOLPH

Yeah, I wish he were here right now.

Bart walks up.

BART

Hi guys. What's up?

JIMBO

We were just saying we'd love to meet the guy who cut off the head of that statue.

DOLPH

Yeah, we wish he were here right now.

BART

Oh, really?

He starts to unzip his knapsack.

KEARNY

Yeah, we'd break every bone in his stupid little body.

DOLPH

Yeah, that's right, man. Limb by limb.

JIMBO/DOLPH

Yeah, man.

BART

What? (ZIPS THE BAG SHUT) But, but yesterday didn't you say it would be cool to cut off the head and really cheese everybody off?

DOLPH

I don't remember what I said yesterday.

KEARNY

That was just cloud talk, man.

JIMBO

Yeah! I mean throwing rocks at a statue is one thing, but I'd never cut the head off of a guy who iced a bear with his bare hands?

JIMBO

So what's in the bag, Bart?

A disembodied VOICE comes from Bart's knapsack. It rustles slightly.

JEBEDIAH (FROM INSIDE BAG)

My head.

Bart looks at the knapsack, aghast.

JIMBO

I said, what's in the bag, Bart?

JEBEDIAH (FROM INSIDE BAG)

Go ahead, Bart. Tell them. It's the head of Jebediah Springfield.

BART

(TERRIFIED; TO BAG) It is not.

JIMBO

What's wrong with you, Simpson?

Bart pales.

BART

Ahh! Nothing. I gotta go.

EXT. STREET

Bart nervously heads home crossing back through the vigil, past the headless statue. Hundreds of townsfolk carry lighted candles.

JEBEDIAH (FROM INSIDE BAG)

Look what you've done. You wanted to be popular. Now you're the most hated boy in town.

BART

You're not really talking to me.
You're just my overactive imagination.

JEBEDIAH (FROM INSIDE BAG)

Oh, I am, am I?

PAN with Bart has he crosses past Burns, Smithers, Moe and Dandy, among the other mourners. They look at him suspiciously.

BART (CONT'D)

(WHISPERS) Shut up... I wanted them to like me.

BURNS

(TO HIMSELF) Ummm, the child seems rattled.

MOE

Can you blame him?

BURNS

No, no I can't. (BREAKING DOWN)

SMITHERS

There, there, Mr. Burns. Blow, sir.

Smithers puts a tissue up to Burns' nose, who blows. SFX:
HONKING sound.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Bart crosses through Living Room. Lisa and Maggie,
clutching her bankey, are watching "Krusty The Clown" on
TV.

LISA

Hey Bart, where you going?

BART

To my room.

LISA

Why don't you watch "Krusty The Clown"?

BART

No thanks.

LISA

Come on, Bart. We can all use a few
laughs right now.

Bart walks over to the TV.

ON TV

KRUSTY is talking to SIDESHOW BOB, a wildman of Borneo-type who talks through the use of a slide whistle.

KRUSTY

Sideshow Bob, did you hear the news about Jebediah Springfield's head?

SIDESHOW BOB

(BLOWS SLIDE WHISTLE DOWN)

KRUSTY

But it's okay. We'll find the bad person who did it.

SIDESHOW BOB

(BLOWS SLIDE WHISTLE UP)

KRUSTY

And that's where you come in, boys and girls. There is someone out there in Krustyland who has committed an atrocity. If you know who it is, I don't care if it is your brother, your sister, your daddy, or your mommy -- turn them in... and Krusty will send you a free whistle just like Sideshow Bob's.

SIDESHOW BOB

(BLOWS HIS WHISTLE UP AND DOWN
ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

Bart drops his knapsack, which hits the ground with a resounding **THUD**.

JEBEDIAH (FROM INSIDE BAG)

Ow!

Bart grabs the knapsack and runs out into the backyard.

EXT. SIMPSONS' BACKYARD

Bart is digging a hole in the ground in which to bury the head.

JEBEDIAH

Wait a minute. I hope you're not planning to do what I think you're doing.

BART

Sorry, man. It's either you or me.

JEBEDIAH

You know, Bart, you don't have to found a town to be a hero. Sometimes a hero can be a young boy with the courage to stand up and admit he's made a mistake.

BART

Thanks, man. I'll remember that.

Bart pushes the head in the hole. Lisa comes out of the house.

LISA

What are you burying this time?

Lisa sees the head and SHRIEKS. Bart clamps his hand over her mouth.

BART

Oh, Lisa. I made a terrible, terrible mistake. It's such a relief to be able to talk to somebody about this... besides him.

LISA

Bart, it's entirely up to you and your conscience whether you tell Mom and Dad, but in six minutes I'm going to tell them myself.

Lisa turns on her heel and returns to the house. Bart MOANS.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marge, Lisa, Maggie, and Homer are watching TV.

ON TV

We see a title card on TV: 'SPRINGFIELD - A CITY HELD HOSTAGE. DAY ONE.' MUSIC: SPRINGTLY BANJO.

TV ANNOUNCER #3 (V.O.)

Jebediah Obediah Zachariah Jedediah

Springfield came West in 1838.

ON TV

We see an ACTOR in a coonskin cap, chopping wood... a trailblazer. A MAN in an ill-fitting bear suit steps out of the woods, and GROWLS. Springfield throws his hatchet at him and misses. He runs at the bear tackling him, and starts to wrestle him on the ground. The bear suit rips slightly. (We superimpose "Dramatization" over the above.)

TV ANNOUNCER #3 (V.O.) CONT'D

Along the way he met a ferocious bear
and killed him with his bare hands.
Although modern historians recently
uncovered evidence that the bear, in
fact, probably killed him. But whether
bear killed man, or man killed bear, a
burgeoning town, Springfield, was born.

ON TV - WESTERN TOWN

CUT TO:

Shot of completed statue, before its mutilation.

TV ANNOUNCER #3 (V.O.)

The town with a hero until last night,
when it became a town with a hero
without a head.

CUT TO:

Shot of people milling around the headless statute.

ANNOUNCER

The beleaguered Chief of the
Springfield Police Department, Abner
Wiggum.

CUT TO:

Wiggum by the statue, besieged by reporters.

REPORTER #1

Do you suspect terrorists?

REPORTER #2

A satanic cult?

REPORTER #3

Some jerk with a hacksaw?

WIGGUM

This is the work of a fiendish criminal
mastermind.

BACK TO SIMPSON LIVING ROOM

Bart walks in carrying the head.

BART

Mom, Dad.

Marge GASPS.

HOMER

(MAD) I knew it all along.

Homer turns off the TV set and goes for Bart.

MARGE

Why, Bart, why?

BART

'cause I wanted some really bad kids to
like me. Somehow I got the idea that
being popular was the most important
thing in the world.

HOMER

(GULPS)

MARGE

Where did you get a ridiculous idea
like that?

HOMER

Lay off the boy, Marge. He's a good kid. Quit giving him the third degree.

MARGE

Homer, did you have something to do with this?

HOMER

Well, maybe I am a little responsible.

MARGE

A little? How's a boy supposed to learn right from wrong with the example you set? You bet on football games.

HOMER

Yeah!

MARGE

You listen to the radio in church.

HOMER

Guilty.

MARGE

And you spend too much time at that tavern.

HOMER

True. (SADLY) And I'm quick to anger.

Homer turns off the TV set and goes for Bart.

BART

There's an understatement.

HOMER

(ANGRY) Bart!

MARGE

Homer!

HOMER

Sorry. (TO BART) C'mon, son. Let's
take the head thing back to the
authorities.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Homer and Bart are walking down the street carrying the head. As they turn the corner, we see Burns, Smithers, Grampa, Principal Skinner, Krusty, Sideshow Bob, Moe, Monroe, Mrs. Krabappel and Barney being led by Reverend Lovejoy. They are carrying torches and pitchforks and carrying placards which have a picture of Jebediah's head and reads "Have you seen me?"

BURNS

You know, Bart, when I was your age, I
pulled a few boners, but I think you'll
find that people are pretty decent if
you give them half... (GASP) Oh, oh.

BURNS

Look, there it is! The head!

KRUSTY

Kill him!

The MOB chase Homer and Bart. The Mob AD LIB: Let's get
'em", "After them," "String 'em up," etc.

Homer and Bart SCREAM AND RUN.

EXT. STREET - VARIOUS ANGLES - NIGHT

Homer and Bart are just ahead of the angry mob. They see
giant shadows of the approaching mob.

HOMER

(MUMBLING)

BART

I'm right behind you, Dad. (YELLS)

HOMER

Come on, boy, hurry. Step it up. Out
of my way.

BART

They're gaining on us. Go man go.

HOMER

Ugh!

BART

Over there. Follow me.

HOMER

Trapped.

BART

No, no. In there!

Bart runs to the statue and jumps inside. Homer follows
diving headfirst and getting stuck at the waist.

INT. STATUE

Bart pulls on Homer

BART

Am I hurting you, Dad?

HOMER

Not as bad as they will, boy. Keep
pulling!

EXT. STATUE

Homer is pulled inside. **SFX: SUCTIONING THWOP.** A beat later, Homer sticks his head out, sees the approaching crowd and reacts with horror. He grabs the head of Jebediah Springfield and replaces it on the statue's shoulders.

EXT. STATUE

The mob approaches angrily. They see the head is back in place and grow calm.

MOE

Look, everybody.

PRINCIPAL SKINNER

The head is back.

REVEREND LOVEJOY

It's a miracle.

OTTO

It's beautiful.

SIDESHOW BOB

(BLOWS WHISTLE)

BURNS

I love you, Smithers

SMITHERS

The feeling is more than mutual, sir.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SUNRISE

The birds are **CHIRPING**. The square is empty. Marge enters looking around for Bart and Homer.

MARGE

Bart? Homer? Bart? Homer?

The statue's head starts to wobble and falls off. Marge reacts nervously. Bart's head pops out.

MARGE

Whoa!

Homer's head pops out.

HOMER

Morning, doll. Miss me last night?

(CHUCKLE)

MARGE

(MOST EXASPERATED MOAN EVER)

HOMER

Well, all's well that ends well, man.

MARGE

Putting the head back doesn't make
things right, Bart. You're going to
have to do some community service.

HOMER

Yeah!

BART

Ugh!

CUT TO:

EXT. SQUARE - DAY

Bart is dressed in a uniform similar to a crossing guard's.
Dolph is about to throw a rock at the statue.

BART

Hey, drop it, mister.

DOLPH

Simpson, you dip.

Dolph drops the rock and runs off.

BART

I can't believe I have to guard this stupid thing for a whole year.

JEBEDIAH (BACK ON HIS SHOULDERS)

Dip. Hahaha. That's a good one.

Bart is stunned to see the statue still talking to him.

BART

Oh no.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Come on, Simpson. Step lively. Oh, while you're at it, there's a piece of gum on my bear. Get rid of it. Speaking of which, did I ever tell you about the time I killed a bear with by bare hands?

Bart GROANS

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

It was early in the morning. I was hungry. I looked around to see if there was any game I could kill. I thought there might be some deer or squirrels nearby. Well, I was in for a very big surprise, let me tell you right now. All of a sudden there on my left I see this angry grizzly. He is looking at me like I'm his lunch.

PULL BACK as we leave Bart listening to the statue.

HOMER

(MUMBLING)

BART

I'm right behind you, Dad. (YELLS)

HOMER

Come on, boy, hurry. Step it up. Out of my way.

BART

They're gaining on us. Go man go.

HOMER

Ugh!

BART

Over there. Follow me.

HOMER

They got us cornered, boy. We'll never get away. Give me the head.

BART

No, Dad. This whole thing was my fault. You run along.

HOMER

Son, we're in this mess together. No matter how tempting it might be, I can't let my only boy get ripped limb from limb by a blood-thirsty mob.

BART

Aw, Dad.

HOMER

We'll die together, like a father and son should.

BURNS

Look, now we got 'em.

AD LIBS from the crowd: "Hey, that's Homer Simpson." "And his kid, Bart." "Let's kill them."

BART

Good people of Springfield. Spare my life for a minute. I'm going to tell you who sawed off the head but first there is something I have to say.

Crowd AD LIBS: "Hear him out." etc.

BART (CONT'D)

I know we all love and admire the father of this beautiful town, but it wasn't until an anonymous culprit with a shiny hacksaw removed the head of Jebediah Springfield with surgical precision, that we realized we were taking our heritage for granted. That was a crime too. One I think we are all guilty of.

Crowd MURMURS and AD LIBS: "Hey, he's right. "Got a point there."

BART (CONT'D)

And I know that the person who did this

is feeling an inner shame far greater
than any punishment you could dish out.
The important thing is the head is
back. And I say, this is not the time
for killing, it's a time for healing.

Crowd AD LIBS: "You know he's right." "Look, it's
glorious." "It's beautiful, man."

SIDESHOW BOB

(BLOWS WHISTLE)

BURNS

I love you, Smithers.

SMITHERS

It's more than mutual, sir.

BURNS

Wait a minute, boy. You didn't tell us
who cut off the head.

BART

All I can tell you is that when she
left town yesterday, she vowed never to
return.

Crowd AD LIBS: "That's good enough for me." "I hope she
never comes back." Crowd CHEERS.

BURNS

It's not severe anyway.

SMITHERS

I agree with you there, sir.

BART

Whew!

FADE OUT

THE END